

groups affiliated with western life. Grace was president of the North Park Pioneer Association; she is an Honorary Life Member of the North Park CattleWomen and the Colorado CattleWomen; she was also a member of the Rebekah Lodge in Walden. In his days as a soldier, Oley was part of the famous 10th Mountain Division, later becoming a member of the 10th Mountain Division Association. He was also a member of the Colorado Water Congress.

In addition to the Kohlman's contributions to regional groups affiliated with the cattle industry, they were also honored this year in recognition of fifty years as members of the Colorado Cattlemen's Association. Oley has served as chairman of the Marketing Committee and chairman of the Endowment Trust Fund, and perhaps most impressively, he also served as president of the Board of Directors for two years. Both Oley and Grace are also members of numerous national cattlemen's associations.

As members of the Junior Colorado Cattlemen's Association, they created the Oley and Grace Kohlman JCCA Scholarship, which provides tuition assistance to JCCA college students majoring or minoring in an agriculture related field of study.

Mr. Speaker, it is for their years of passionate dedication to their trade that I recognize Oley and Grace Kohlman before this body of Congress today. I am honored to pay tribute to this tremendous Colorado couple and the wonderful contributions they have made towards the betterment of their community.

H.R. 2861—VA/HUD
APPROPRIATIONS BILL

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 10, 2003

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, today I voted in favor of the Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Act of 2004, with serious reservations about its funding levels for veterans' facilities across the country.

Veterans deserve more than this bill, which gives the VA \$2.1 billion less than the House budget resolution requested. It is unconscionable that we're not fully funding the VA. I want to see this legislation receive full funding during conference committee, before it is sent to the President. At a time when we are asking more Americans to sacrifice for our Nation, we should not cut funds for medical care facilities veterans may need upon their return home.

I hope that the conference committee can resolve differences between the House and Senate appropriations bills and will negotiate for better funding of veterans' medical care. A number of veterans' organizations have voiced their disappointment in the bill's low level of funding, including the American Legion, Disabled American Veterans, and Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

Earlier today, I offered an amendment to the bill that mirrored my recently-introduced bipartisan CARES legislation. This bill, H.R. 2808, would require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to give Congress 60 days to review any action proposed closure of VA facilities or beds. The legislation comes after the VA sug-

gested that the Dwight D. Eisenhower VA Medical Center in Leavenworth may be considered for possible downsizing of beds and services.

Congress needs to be involved in the process of determining the future of the VA health care system, especially if facilities are on the chopping block. Eliminating services in Leavenworth would be a disservice to the men and women who have served our country. In addition, redirecting those patients to the Kansas City VA Hospital, when there is already a six month wait for non-emergency care, would overwhelm a system that is already overwhelmed. After making a sacrifice for our country, our veterans should not be denied access to health benefits they have earned.

TRIBUTE TO RUTH MARIE
COLVILLE

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 10, 2003

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a solemn heart that I stand before this body of Congress and this nation today to pay tribute to the life and passing of Ruth Marie Colville, an outstanding citizen from my district. Ruth was an active member of the Del Norte, Colorado community and she will be remembered as a respected historian, educator, and mother. Ruth passed away recently at the age of 99, leaving a legacy of leadership for her community to follow. I stand to honor that leadership here today.

Ruth was born in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania but moved to Del Norte shortly after she graduated from college. Ruth had a fascination with the West, exhibited in her love of movies and Western entertainment. Ruth began her life in Del Norte as a history teacher, calling on her English and History degrees from Wellesley College. Ruth's passion, however, was researching and documenting the life, culture, and exploration of early life in the San Luis Valley.

Ruth's passion would lead her to write several books on the history of the area, and she soon became a respected member of the educational community. For her service, Adams State College opened the Ruth Marie Colville room in the Nielsen library. Del Norte honored her by opening the Ruth Marie Center for the Community.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to Ruth Marie Colville before this Congress and this nation. Her hard work, enthusiasm, and leadership in the community will be sorely missed. My thoughts and prayers go out to Ruth's family and friends as they mourn her loss.

HONORING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF J. C. EHRLICH CO., INC.

HON. TIM HOLDEN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 10, 2003

Mr. HOLDEN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have the opportunity to bring an authentic American success story to your attention.

The officers and coworkers of the J. C. Ehrlich Company are celebrating the 75th anniversary of the founding of their company in 1928. The company's founder, Julius C. Ehrlich emigrated to this country from Germany at the age of 17, eventually moving to Reading, Pennsylvania where he had a job as a manufacturer's representative selling insecticides and sprayers. In 1928, there were very few pest control companies in the country and none in Berks County. Mr. Ehrlich's sales were primarily to businesses who would apply the materials themselves.

One day he called one of his customers, a department store in Reading, who had not used the material he had sold them during his last sales visit. When he learned that the custodian had been unable to apply the material, Mr. Ehrlich, wanting to satisfy his customer and not wanting to lose a sale, offered to apply the material himself. At that moment Mr. Ehrlich, who was 56, founded the pest control service organization now known as the J. C. Ehrlich Company. Even today, as the company celebrates its 75th anniversary, the management and coworkers look back at that moment as inspiring their current success by using the same principles that Mr. Ehrlich employed at that department store—Initiative, Ingenuity and Exceeding Customer Expectations.

So while others were contemplating retirement, Julius C. Ehrlich was developing a new business. Even more impressive is the fact that the formative years of Mr. Ehrlich's business were during the early 1930's and the Great Depression.

By 1939, four of Mr. Ehrlich's nephews had immigrated to this country in order to avoid the conditions facing them as Jews in Nazi Germany. In the great traditions of many Americans, these four nephews, Arthur Hammel, Simon Hammel, Alex Ehrlich and Victor Hammel, worked tirelessly. (Unfortunately, Victor Hammel, for whom the company's current President is named, passed away in the early 1940's.) Their work ethic is underscored by the story of their arrival in late December 1937. Without knowing the English language, and without any knowledge of pest control, they started work just five days later. When questioned as to why they waited five whole days from the time they got off the ship to the time they started, Simon Hammel was quick to mention that they lost several days because of a weekend and New Year's Day. Otherwise, they would have started work more quickly. The hard work and determination of this second generation began the expansion of the J. C. Ehrlich Company beyond its Berks County roots. Its second district office was established in Pottsville. The third and fourth offices were in Lancaster and Allentown.

Today the third generation of Ehrlich family management includes three cousins, Victor Hammel, Robert Hammel and Richard Yashek.

The company's owners are quick to point out that it is the dedication of its coworkers that has made J. C. Ehrlich a premier company in its various businesses. In fact, the company states its core belief in its Vision Statement: "Above all else, we value long-lasting relationships with coworkers and customers." Among its current 1,100 coworkers are many who have reaffirmed that sentiment by working for J. C. Ehrlich for 15 years, 20 years, 25 years and more. Today, in addition